

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel Claims 6, 7, 15, 21, 22, 30 and 32 to 34 without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter, and amend Claims 1 to 5, 11 to 13, 16 to 19 and 31 as shown below.

The claims, as pending in the subject application, now read as follows:

1. (Currently amended) An information processing apparatus comprising:

a holding unit adapted to hold ~~means for holding print data for which a print request is made;~~

an issuing unit adapted to issue reference information corresponding to the print data held by said holding unit, to a plurality of printing apparatuses; and

a transmission control unit adapted to control to transmit the print data to a printing apparatus, from among the plurality of printing apparatuses, which first requested to acquire the print data based on the reference information, and not to transmit the print data to another printing apparatus, from among the plurality of printing apparatuses, which requested to acquire the print data after the print data was transmitted

~~generating means for generating reference information for performing pull print corresponding to the print data held in said holding means; and~~

~~issuing means for issuing said reference information for performing pull print corresponding to said print data generated in said generating means to a printing apparatus, which is made communicatable via a predetermined communication medium, as a print request.~~

2. (Currently amended) The information processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said issuing unit means is a Web server function processing means ~~in compliance with~~

~~a predetermined protocol and the Web server function processing means issues a print request in compliance with said predetermined protocol to a printing apparatus and transfers said print data held in said holding means to said printing apparatus if a request for obtaining predetermined print data has been returned from said printing apparatus.~~

3. (Currently amended) The information processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said print data is transmitted via said predetermined communication medium,

the apparatus further comprising a receiving unit adapted to receive means for receiving print data that is transmitted via a predetermined communication medium,

wherein said holding unit means holds print data received by said receiving unit means and said issuing unit issues ~~generating means generates~~ reference information for performing pull print corresponding to the print data held in said holding unit means.

4. (Currently amended) The information processing apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising a notifying unit adapted to notify means for notifying a second information processing apparatus, which is made communicatable via a predetermined communication medium, of said reference information ~~for performing pull print generated in said generating means,~~

~~wherein said reference information is for said second information processing apparatus to instruct said printing apparatus to perform pull print via the predetermined communication medium.~~

5. (Currently amended) The information processing apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising:

a recognizing unit adapted to recognize ~~means for recognizing~~ whether or not said printing apparatus that is made communicatable via the predetermined communication medium corresponds to pull print; and

a determining unit adapted to determine ~~means for determining~~ whether a print request for push print or a print request for pull print is issued to said printing apparatus according to recognition of said recognizing unit ~~means~~.

6. and 7. (Canceled)

8. (Original) The information processing apparatus according to claim 2, wherein said predetermined protocol is an Internet printing protocol.

9. (Original) The information processing apparatus according to claim 2, wherein a print request in compliance with said predetermined protocol is a Pull request for obtaining said print data and the Pull request includes at least a GET method of an HTTP protocol or a get subcommand of an FTP protocol.

10. (Original) The information processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said reference information for performing pull print is information for specifying a storing place of print data stored in a storage unit and includes at least a URL.

11. (Currently amended) The information processing apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising a deleting unit adapted to delete ~~means for deleting~~ said print data held in said holding unit ~~means~~ according to a response from the print apparatus to which the print data is transferred.

12. (Currently amended) The information processing apparatus according to claim 11, wherein said deleting unit means recognizes information for instructing whether or not said print data held in said holding unit ~~means~~ is to be deleted and controls to switch whether or not said print data is to be deleted according to the recognition.

13. The information processing apparatus according to claim 2, wherein said Web server function processing unit ~~means~~ manages said print data held in said holding unit ~~means~~ and starts server function processing for performing Web server function processing in compliance with a predetermined protocol when a print request is issued from an application to a printing system.

14. (Original) The information processing apparatus according to claim 13, wherein said printing system includes a printer driver and a print spooler.

15. (Canceled)

16. (Currently amended) An information processing method comprising:  
a step of holding print data ~~for which a print request is made;~~

a step of issuing reference information corresponding to the print data held in said holding step, to a plurality of printing apparatuses; and

a step of controlling to transmit the print data to a printing apparatus, from among the plurality of printing apparatuses, which first requested to acquire the print data based on the reference information, and not to transmit the print data to another printing apparatus, from among the plurality of printing apparatuses, which requested to acquire the print data after the print data was transmitted

~~a step of generating reference information for performing pull print corresponding to the print data held in said holding step; and~~

~~a step of issuing said reference information for performing said pull print corresponding to said print data generated in said generating step to a printing apparatus, which is made communicatable via a predetermined communication medium, as a print request.~~

17. (Currently amended) The information processing method according to claim 16, wherein said issuing step is a Web server function processing step in compliance with a predetermined protocol and the Web server function processing step issues a print request in compliance with said predetermined protocol to a printing apparatus and transfers said print data held in said holding step to said printing apparatus if a request for obtaining predetermined print data has been returned from said printing apparatus.

18. (Currently amended) The information processing method according to claim 16, wherein said print data is transmitted via said predetermined communication medium,

the method further comprising a step of receiving print data that is transmitted via a predetermined communication medium,

wherein said holding step holds print data received in said receiving step and said ~~issuing~~ ~~generating~~ step ~~issues~~ ~~generates~~ reference information for performing pull print corresponding to the print data held in said holding step.

19. (Currently amended) The information processing method according to claim 16, further comprising a step of notifying a second information processing apparatus, which is made communicatable via a predetermined communication medium, of said reference information ~~for performing pull print generated in said generating step,~~

~~wherein said reference information is for said second information processing apparatus to instruct said printing apparatus to perform pull print via said predetermined communication medium.~~

20. (Original) The information processing method according to claim 16, further comprising:

a step of recognizing whether or not said printing apparatus that is made communicatable via the predetermined communication medium corresponds to pull print; and

a step of determining whether a print request for push print or a print request for pull print is issued to said printing apparatus according to recognition of said recognizing step.

21. and 22. (Canceled)

23. (Original) The information processing method according to claim 17, wherein said predetermined protocol is an Internet printing protocol.

24. (Original) The information processing method according to claim 17, wherein a print request in compliance with said predetermined protocol is a Pull request for obtaining said print data and the Pull request includes at least a GET method of an HTTP protocol or a get subcommand of an FTP protocol.

25. (Original) The information processing method according to claim 16, wherein said reference information for performing pull print is information for specifying a storing place of print data stored in a storage unit and includes at least a URL.

26. (Original) The information processing method according to claim 16, further comprising a step of deleting said print data held in said holding step according to a response from said print apparatus to which said print data is transferred.

27. (Original) The information processing method according to claim 26, wherein said deleting step recognizes information for instructing whether or not said print data held in said holding step is to be deleted and controls to switch whether or not said print data is to be deleted according to the recognition.

28. (Original) The information processing method according to claim 17, wherein said Web server function processing step manages said print data held in said holding step and starts server function processing for performing Web server function processing in compliance with a predetermined protocol when a print request is issued from an application to a printing system.

29. (Original) The information processing method according to claim 28, wherein said printing system includes a printer driver and a print spooler.

30. (Canceled)

31. (Currently amended) A computer readable storage medium storing a program for executing:

a step of holding print data ~~for which a print request is made;~~



a step of issuing reference information corresponding to the print data held in said holding step, to a plurality of printing apparatuses; and

a step of controlling to transmit the print data to a printing apparatus, from among the plurality of printing apparatuses, which first requested to acquire the print data based on the reference information, and not to transmit the print data to another printing apparatus, from among the plurality of printing apparatuses, which requested to acquire the print data after the print data was transmitted

~~a step of generating reference information for performing pull print corresponding to the print data held in said holding step; and~~

~~a step of issuing said reference information for performing said pull print corresponding to said print data generated in said generating step to a printing apparatus, which is made communicatable via a predetermined communication medium, as a print request.~~

32. to 34. (Canceled)

35. (New) The information processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said transmission control unit controls to transmit an error to the other printing apparatus, from among the plurality of printing apparatuses, which requested to acquire the print data after the print data was transmitted.

36. (New) The information processing method according to claim 16, wherein said transmission control step is adapted to control to transmit an error to the other printing apparatus, from among the plurality of printing apparatuses, which requested to acquire the print data after the print data was transmitted.